

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET
(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP STAT

TO	INITIALS	DATE
1	<i>MLW</i>	<i>3 Mar.</i>
2	<i>ATK</i>	<i>3 Mar</i>
3	<i>HK</i>	<i>4 Mar.</i>
4	<i>Gen. File</i>	
5		STAT

FROM	INITIALS	DATE
1	<i>ATK</i>	<i>2 March</i>
2		
3		

Probably results from B.B.C. World rather than B.B.C. took initiative in following us to reduce the wordage.

☐ APPROVAL ☒ INFORMATION ☐ SIGNATURE
☐ ACTION ☐ DIRECT REPLY ☐ RETURN
☐ COMMENT ☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY ☐ DISPATCH
☐ CONCURRENCE ☐ RECOMMENDATION ☐ FISTAT

Remarks: *In revising the FBIS communications diagram, I had just discovered that the 1953 average file to Canberra was 50,000 groups per day, a 25% increase over 1952. Altho*

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regards this as the capacity of a circuit, I think the capacity of a single circuit should be rated somewhat lower, which only heightens the need for an additional line - IF the volume is NECESSARY. However, it seems to me we should first see whether the size of the file can't be reduced. We should examine our selection critically, and perhaps as a result of Way's passing this to BBC they will also come up with some guidance to assist us in trimming the file.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FBIS
ATTN : Field Operations Officer
FROM : Chief, London Bureau

DATE: 25 February 1954

SUBJECT: Wire Facilities London-BBC Caversham

1. Attached for your information is report of the Chief, Communications Section dated 11 February on the present use of the circuit from the London Wire Room to the BBC.

2. A copy of this Memorandum has been passed to the BBC for their reaction. Your office will be advised of any BBC comment.



STAT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

AMERICAN EMBASSY

LONDON, W. 1.

London Bureau

Reference : C/311.01 BBC

11 February 1954

Subject : Communications
Use of BBC Facilities

To :
Chief, London Bureau,
F.B.I.S.

STAT

1. During the past two months it has been noticed in the London Wire Room that a large number of tapes are often "waiting" for transmission to BBC Caversham on the duplex system which serves the BBC News Room. Towards the end of January 1954 (from the 20th onwards) it became commonplace to have as much as four hours backlog in hand.

2. In an endeavour to move this traffic as speedily as possible into the BBC News Bureau we have arranged, from time to time, with the FBIS Caversham Wire Room to insert six ply paper in one of the U.S. machines and accept copy for the BBC, which is then collected by a BBC operator. However this causes some additional trouble for the BBC and when the FBIS operators are working full capacity it is not always convenient.

3. Whereas the actual daily total wordages do not always appear to be excessive, it is more often the peak periods (two or three times a day) which cause the overload and this of course is brought about by the difference in world time as between London - the U.S. and the Far East. Consequently traffic from Tokyo, Okinawa and similar posts will start to flow more heavily from 2400 GMT - 0300 - 0600 - 0900 and again from 1330 GMT until 2200 GMT, when communications conditions are normal but, having in mind the South Pacific radio path from Manila to Hawaii and Hawaii to Washington followed by the North Atlantic hop to Heidelberg during bad radio (propagation) conditions there can be, and is, a build up at any or all of three major relay stations. Consequently we then receive a rush of traffic inwards on two circuits from Heidelberg but only one channel out to BBC.

4. A survey of FBIS/BBC traffic since last July shows not only an increase in daily average but an increase in the number of days in each month when the daily total of wordage exceeded 50,000 words. Allowing for maintenance on the equipment, outages due to line (wire) or machine faults and delays due to procedures and reruns, it is reasonable to expect

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between 50,000 to 52,000 words over a simplex (one direction only) circuit. Therefore, on this basis, anything over 50,000 words can be assumed to run into a second circuit in time.

The following details may be of interest :-

Prior to July 1953 the daily average from Washington for BBC had been between 29,000-35,000 words per day - with the maximum seldom higher than 41 or 42 thousand.

In July 1953 the highest total was on the 8th - 50,037. Daily averages were Kyrenia 28,084.6 words, Washington 36,713.5 words.

August 1953. Kyrenia 29,844 words, Washington 38,825.3 words.

September 1953. Kyrenia 33,390 words, Washington 45,121.3 words.

In September the highest for any one day from Washington was on the 15th at 63,299 words, and on six occasions daily wordage exceeded 50,000.

October 1953. Kyrenia 32,711.6 words, Washington 41,099.3 words. On five occasions daily wordage exceeded 50,000.

November 1953. Kyrenia 36,920.6 words, Washington 40,345.3 words. On November 6th the maximum for any one day from Washington went up to 67,600, and while only three occasions showed the daily total above 50,000 there were many occasions close to the border line at 47-49 thousands per day.

December 1953. Kyrenia 33,723.7 words, Washington 36,760.7 words. Here due to a decline over the holiday period (Christmas) the averages were not so high - nevertheless on 18 December the total from Washington was 61,210 words and on five occasions the wordage exceeded 50,000.

January 1954. Kyrenia 31,564.2 words, Washington 43,336.6 words. On January 20th an alltime daily high was reached with 69,640 words from Washington and on NINE occasions we exceeded 50,000 words with thirteen days well over the 40,000 mark.

5. It will thus be seen, from para 4 above, that there appears to be a general expansion in coverage which increases the wordage - and this together with the variations in propagation and world times makes it apparent that in the near future extra facilities between FBIS London and BBC News Bureau Caversham will be required.

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If we are to move BBC traffic into Caversham within a short space of time of receiving it, we must have the facilities to do so under maximum load conditions. It is therefore suggested that the BBC consider the possibilities of planning a second wire (one direction only will suffice) between FBIS London Wire Room and Caversham.



Chief Communications

EHF/bj

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NOTE

Midday in U.K.

OKINAWA	GMT plus 9	9.0 pm
WASHINGTON	GMT minus 5	7.0 am
KYRENIA	GMT plus 3	3.0 pm